

## **2002 Hall Of Fame Inductee**

### **Melvin Cooper**

Melvin Cooper has born in 1898. He taught agriculture at Mt. Hope and Fennimore in Grant County and joined the Wisconsin State Board of Agriculture in 1941 to help establish a state-wide war training program for agriculture. With the war training program completed, he accepted a position helping rural veterans return productively to farming and then returned to the State Board of Vocational Technical Adult Education where he served 17 more years until his retirement in 1964.

Melvin and his wife, Hazel, had one son, Carlos M. Cooper. Carlos lives in Kansas, and his early recollections of his father revolve around the many farm meetings in which his dad pleaded with reluctant farmers to let their boys attend high school in Fennimore. He promised to look after them so that they would return to the family farm untouched by the "bad city ways."

Melvin Cooper was an excellent public speaker, and he never had a bad word to say about anyone. He enjoyed every minute of his time with the veterans. Melvin died suddenly at his home in Madison in 1974. He made the world a better place by simply being a friendly part of it.